The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires each district and charter school to complete and submit a justification when it anticipates exceeding 1.0 percent of students assessed in a subject area (i.e., English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, and/or Science) with the NCEXTEND1 alternate assessment. Justifications from each district and charter school will be reviewed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), and follow up actions will be determined based on the information found in the justification document. Staff from the Exceptional Children and Accountability Divisions in each district and charter school should collaborate to provide the following information on the justification document. Responses to Sections 1–4 and the designated signatures are required; it is optional to include additional information (see page 5). This justification document will be publicly posted. As such, the document must not contain any personally identifiable information. If necessary, additional pages may be attached to this form.

### **Section 1: Contact Information**

Enter contact information for the primary district/charter school staff member responsible for overseeing the completion of the justification form.

3-Digit LEA/Charter Code: 160	
Contact Name: Kim Sarver	27
<b>Contact Phone No.: 252-728-4583</b>	
District/Charter Name: Carteret County School District	
Contact Title: Director of EC and Related Services	
Contact E-Mail: Kim.Sarver@carteretk12.org	

### Section 2: Analyzing Contributing Factors

Did the Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams utilize the alternate assessment eligibility criteria and
the North Carolina Alternate Assessment Decision Making Flow Chart to make alternate assessment
participation decisions?

 $\boxtimes$  Yes  $\square$  No

Indicate how all members of the IEP teams have been informed or trained on the alternate assessment eligibility criteria and the North Carolina Alternate Assessment Decision Making Flow Chart. Check all that apply.

Training Method	School Administration	Special Education Staff	Parents	Related Service Staff
Face-to-face training	$\boxtimes$	$\boxtimes$		$\boxtimes$
Online training				
Given copy of guidance documents	$\boxtimes$	×		$\boxtimes$
No training provided				
Other, please explain below				

Other, please explain below:			
Click or tap here to enter text.			
Click of tap here to enter text.			
Does the district or charter school id	entify students to participate	ate in the alternate assessment that do not	
traditionally participate (i.e., Speech	and Language Impairmer	nt, Specific Learning Disability, etc.)? If y	es,
	mined these students meet	t the criteria for participation in the alternation	ate
assessment.	✓ Vac		
Explain below:	⊠ Yes	□ No	
Explain below.			
The LEA places the basis for determ	nining Extend 1 Testing E	ligibility within the IEP Team's decision	
making process. All students determ	nined by the IEP Team to	participate in the extended content cours	e of
study are then thereby assessed on	the Extend 1 Assessmen	t.The IEP Team determines a student to	
participate in the extended content of	course of study if the stude	ent has a significant cognitive disability	
through all content areas in order to	ors with intensive, individi	ualized specifically designed instruction	
through all content areas in order to	make progress in light of	the student's circumstances.	
Does the district or charter school pro-	ovide a targeted program	that may contribute to a higher enrollmen	ıt of
students with significant cognitive di	isabilities?	that may continue to a mighor emorning	
	☑ Yes	□ No	
Explain below:			
Based on the "Pick/Patio Calculation	" nottorna ar nocko of di		
to determining eligibility and placeme	i, palleris of peaks of dis ent are examined Within	sproportionality can be identified and crite the district, areas of higher extended	eria
		pulations or schools requiring additional	
		g in the extended content standards are	
placed as SEP (separate) and the LF	RE (least restrictive enviro	onment) setting on IEPs. The LEA also	
provides cluster classrooms for stude	ents participating in the ex	xtended content standards, this too could	
falsely identify a high density of stude	ents at particular school, l	but simply be the result of the cluster	
classroom for extended content stan	dards being noused at the	at school.	
Does the district or charter school har	ve a small overall student	population that increased the likelihood of	of
exceeding the 1.0 percent threshold?		• •	
	☐ Yes	⊠ No	
Explain below:			
Click or tap here to enter text.			

### **Section 3: Assurances**

Does the district or charter school have a process in place to monitor alternate assessment participation?
Reviewing district data, students are not fluctuating between Extend 1 test and general assessments. The data reveal a higher density of students taking the Extend 1 in the 8th and 11th grades. These densities will be monitored to ensure the population remains consistent as the students rise from grade to grade. If no fluctuation occurs, this would indicate this is a natural population distribution of students identified for Extend 1 assessments. Population distribution of students taking alternate assessments in grades 3, 4, 5, and 7 is noticeably lower based on the trend data from last year. The district testing coordinator will provide test training and maintain test training logs for II school based testing coordinators that outlines the eligibility criteria for the alternate assessment as outlined in the Testing Students with Disabilities Manual. School based testing coordinators will provide training and maintain test training logs for school based administrators and school based certified staff that outlined in the Students with Disabilities Manual. Regional Coordinatorsfrom the Exceptional Programs Department will provide redip training sessions through their EC PLCs for all EC teachers participating in the extended content standards testing.
Does the district or charter school have a process in place to identify and address disproportionality in
alternate assessment participation (specifically, among race, gender, or socioeconomic status groups)?
Based on the "Risk/Ratio Calculation," patterns or peaks of disproportionality can be identified and criteria to determining eligibility and placement are examined. Within the district, areas of higher extended content standard enrollments can be parsed out to reveal populations or schools requiring additional training. This area will also be monitored through LEA Self Assessment twice a year for aany patterns. Data are analyzed by race/ethnicity, gender, etc. for the LEA's overall disability population and within specific disability categories and content standards. Using a "Risk/Ratio Calculation," a specific EC population's risk of receiving special education and related services or content standards is compared to the risk for all students. Currently we are at a 1.3% at grade 8 and 1.5% at grade 11. Last year's data indicated higher percentages taking the alternate assessment in grades 5th, 6th and 10th compared to this year. Based on last year's data in comparison to this year's data a natural progression in population distribution can be seen. The LEA was also impacted by the hurricane.

### **Section 4: Resources and Technical Assistance**

What resources and technical assistance does the district or charter school need from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to ensure that students are being assessed using the appropriate assessment?

No additional resources are needed at this time.

### **Signatures**

Superintendent/Charter School Director
Exceptional Children Director/Coordinator
LEA/Charter School Test Coordinator

Dat

4.16.

LEA/Charter School Test Coordinator

Date -

The completed justification form must be signed by the superintendent/charter school director, exceptional children's director/coordinator, and LEA/charter school testing coordinator. The form must be scanned and emailed to <a href="mailto:alternateassessment@dpi.nc.gov">alternateassessment@dpi.nc.gov</a> by May 3, 2019.

The NCDPI will notify districts/charter schools in writing if further information is needed and will include next steps. For questions, please contact your Exceptional Children Director or Regional Accountability Coordinator.

Note: See page 5 for additional information that can be included but is not required.